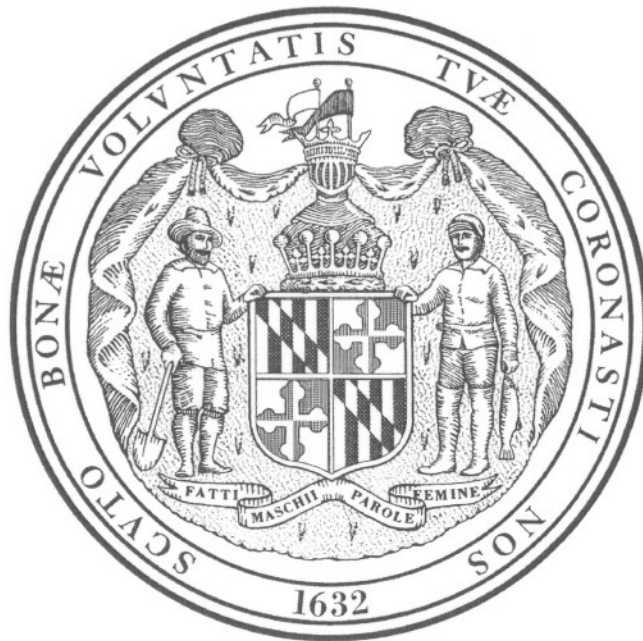


**REPORT ON THE
STATE OPERATING BUDGET (HB 50)
AND THE STATE CAPITAL BUDGET (HB 51)
AND RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

by the Chairmen of the
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and
House Committee on Appropriations



**JOINT CHAIRMEN'S REPORT
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND
2007 SESSION**

M00A
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Budget Amendments

Add the following language:

Provided that no funds in this budget may be expended to close the Walter P. Carter Community Mental Health Center.

Explanation: The language prohibits the expenditure of funds in any way that relates to the closure of the Walter P. Carter Community Mental Health Center. There continues to be concern at the Carter Center and in the surrounding community about the potential closure of the facility. Despite the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene averring that it has no plans to close the center, this concern is impacting the ability to operate programming. For example, the University of Maryland, Baltimore, which provides contract psychiatrists for the facility, has struggled to attract and retain psychiatrists because of the persistent rumors of the center's closure.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

M00A01.01 Executive Direction

Add the following language to the general fund appropriation:

, provided that \$100,000 of this appropriation may not be expended until the Maryland Health Care Commission develops a plan to guide the future mental health service continuum needed in Maryland. The plan shall be developed by a task force that includes representatives from the following:

- (1) Mental Hygiene Administration;
- (2) Health Services Cost Review Commission;
- (3) Maryland Insurance Administration;
- (4) private psychiatric hospitals;
- (5) acute care hospitals with and without inpatient psychiatric units;
- (6) Maryland Psychiatric Society;
- (7) Mental Health Association;
- (8) American College of Emergency Physicians – Maryland Chapter;

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- (9) commercial insurers;
- (10) On Our Own of Maryland, Inc.;
- (11) National Alliance of Mental Illness;
- (12) the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland;
- (13) the Maryland Association of Core Service Agencies;
- (14) the Maryland Disability Law Center; and
- (15) any other representative the Secretary considers necessary to carry out the purpose of the task force.

The plan shall include a statewide mental health needs assessment of the demand for:

- (1) inpatient hospital psychiatric services (in State-run psychiatric, private psychiatric and acute general hospitals); and
- (2) community-based services and programs needed to prevent or divert patients from requiring inpatient mental health services, including services provided in hospital emergency departments.

The task force shall, to the extent feasible and desirable, coordinate with the work of the Transformation Grant project in the Mental Hygiene Administration. To the maximum extent possible, expenditures incurred in the development of the task force's plan shall be funded by the federal Transformation Grant.

The commission and task force shall report their findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by November 1, 2007. The budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment on the plan.

Explanation: A recent report from the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) concerning emergency department overcrowding recommended that the Mental Hygiene Administration develop a plan to guide the future role and capacity of State-run psychiatric hospitals. The development of that plan requires an assessment not only of inpatient psychiatric capacity that is State-run but also that of the private psychiatric hospitals and acute general hospitals. Certainly, this plan is warranted given the many demands on the State-run psychiatric hospitals. The language withholds funds until MHCC convene a task force of interested parties to develop a plan for the continuum of mental health services.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Inpatient psychiatric hospital and community capacity in the mental health continuum	MHCC	November 1, 2007